

Speaker: Juliane Henningsen

Qujanaq maani oqaaseqarsinnaallunga periarfissaqarama, Kalaallit Nunaanniit.

Thank you for this opportunity. It's an honor.

Firstly I would like you all to look around and see the indigenous women in this room. I am sure 20 years ago – we would have seen a different picture. I like what I see today. And in the future – if we work even harder on equality in our societies. The picture will even be more colorful and the voices of our women will be heard.

However, although we can recognize advancements the status of women's participation and representation in politics is still a challenge,

The Greenlandic government just had a CEDAW status report and the current situation is far from what we would like to achieve.

In this report the women's representation in the villages are not mentioned. But we know that indigenous communities many times have villages and many people live in villages. And if the CEDAW report was fully covering local councils – we would see that very few women participate in decision-making at a local level. Therefore I feel responsible to report the status for the women's participation in the villages. Because they are not less important. Indigenous peoples live in remote areas. In my municipality – which has many villages there are NO women – in the village councils. We have to do it better.

The world conference – outcome document states:

**17. We commit ourselves to supporting the empowerment of indigenous women and to formulating and implementing, in collaboration with indigenous peoples, in particular indigenous women and their organizations, policies and programmes designed to promote capacity-building and strengthen their leadership. We support measures that will ensure the full and effective participation of indigenous women in decision-making processes at all levels and in all areas and eliminate barriers to their participation in political, economic, social and cultural life.**

As follow-up to the 2014 World Conference on Indigenous Peoples we call the UN Permanent Forum to recommend:

To the Commission on the Status of Women to consider the issue of the empowerment of indigenous women at its sixty-first session in 2017 on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

1. To States to Promote public policies and inter-cultural approaches to the full and effective participation of women and young people including in political processes.
2. To States to consider indigenous women issues in their efforts to implement the Beijing Platform for action: including to increase women's ability to participate, Training on leadership, public speaking and political campaigning, for instance, grooms women to compete, win and be good leaders who can inspire others.
3. To UNWOMEN, UNFPA, UNDP, and other relevant UN Agencies to develop concrete projects targeted to indigenous women in consultation with our communities and organizations..

As a young indigenous woman I do hope little by little we will achieve equality and the voices of men and women will be heard equally. I would like to support Indigenous Women's Caucus and Indigenous Women's Global Leadership School statements